

Talking Points
West Lake Landfill Congressional Briefing
Karl Brooks, Regional Administrator
September 29, 2014

Key Messages

EPA's work at West Lake is based on science and in accordance with the law
EPA is steadfastly committed to protecting the community's health and safety
EPA remains focused on determining the most appropriate long-term remedy for the site

1. Isolation Barrier

- a. Next Steps
 - i. PRPs will prepare and submit by mid-October detailed plans for IB alignment alternatives, and bird mitigation plans for each alternative.
 - ii. The bird mitigation plans will be provided to SLAA and FAA for review.
- b. Public Safety
 - i. Plans for the IB must address safety—not only for site workers and residents in the surrounding community—but also for the flying public, by carefully evaluating the risks of bird strikes.
 - ii. Ensuring the safety of the flying public and those living and working around the WL Site remains EPA's top priority.
 - iii. EPA appreciates your concerns about the pace of work at the site and takes the responsibility of protecting the health and safety of your neighbors very seriously. The agency strives to be thorough but expedient in its work.

2. Subsurface Smoldering Event

- a. The SSE at the Bridgeton LF continues to be managed under state authority.
- b. We understand the state has approved Republic's plans to install additional monitoring probes to assess the extent of the SSE, and has also approved plans for Republic to install a heat removal system to better control the SSE.
- c. EPA coordinates regularly with MDNR in order to stay informed.

3. During the past six months, EPA has completed important efforts at the West Lake site:

- a. Partnership with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – EPA negotiated and signed two Interagency Agreements with USACE for technical assistance with the Isolation Barrier project and the remedy selection process. The USACE has produced an Isolation Barrier Alternatives Assessment and has taken an active role at monthly Community Advisory Group meetings.
- b. Local Field Office – EPA established a local field office at Robertson Fire Protection

District to act as a control center. The team of EPA On-Scene Coordinators and contractors manage the air monitoring network, and has worked closely with the Fire Department on emergency response planning. The field office has recently been relocated due to planned construction activities at the fire station.

- c. Pre-Construction – EPA negotiated a consent order with the Potentially Responsible Parties for pre-construction activities. The work plan has been prepared and approved, the offsite air monitoring system has been put in place, and litter fencing has been installed by the PRPs.
- d. Off-Site Air Monitoring – EPA established an air monitoring system in the offsite areas surrounding the West Lake Landfill Site. This system includes five air monitoring stations that collect data for gamma radiation; radon; alpha-, beta- and gamma-emitting radionuclides; volatile organic compounds; and landfill gases.
- e. Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex (BMAC) – EPA completed a comprehensive surface gamma screening and soil sampling effort, which found no radionuclide contamination above a level of health concern.
- f. Expanded Public Communications – EPA expanded its efforts to provide timely and accurate information to the public through the publication of a newsletter, the *West Lake Update*. In addition, EPA funds a contract to provide technical support for the Community Advisory Group (CAG).

4. What's next? EPA's plans for the immediate future:

- a. EPA will closely review the MDHSS study.
- b. EPA will review the detailed plans for the Isolation Barrier alignment alternatives as they are submitted by the Potentially Responsible Parties in mid-October.
- c. EPA will review the Bird Mitigation plans when they are submitted by the PRPs, and will coordinate that review with the St. Louis Airport Authority and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
- d. EPA expects the U.S. Geological Survey report regarding groundwater data in the near future. This report is vital in developing a final remedy.
- e. EPA continues to press toward selection of a final remedy. We expect to approve work plans very soon for the next stages of Feasibility Study work that must be completed to support a new Proposed Plan and Record of Decision.

(Background on SLAPS, Coldwater Creek FUSRAP)

Located approximately four miles from the West Lake Landfill are the North County FUSRAP St. Louis Airport Sites (SLAPS), which include Coldwater Creek. These sites are managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers following the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). FUSRAP tasks the USACE with federal funds to clean up designated sites that were nuclear weapons production locations. The remedy for the SLAPS involves USACE contractors excavating radioactive-contaminated soils from private and municipally owned properties and shipping by rail car to disposal facilities in Idaho and Utah.

Investigations by the EPA, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and USACE have attributed potential radiological contamination in Coldwater Creek to runoff or windblown migration of the prior storage of uranium-processing residues and wastes from the North County Portion of SLAPS sites. The USACE removed the North County sources of these wastes, which came from ore-processing activities at the Downtown portion of SLAPS sites.